

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for charging a fee for the use of network resources, which can be made use of between a network resource provider system providing the network resources and an information provider terminal providing the information by using said network resources,

wherein when said network resource provider system charges one information provider terminal a fee for the use of the basic network resources allotted thereto, said network resource provider system gives said one information provider terminal a preferential option enabling said one information provider terminal to use a part of the basic network resources or its entirety thereof allotted to the other information provider terminal and/or a non-preferential option enabling other information provider terminal to use a part of the basic network resources or its entirety thereof allotted to said one information provider terminal, thereby charging said one information provider terminal the fee for the use of the basic network resources taking account of the premium rate/discount rate in correspondence with the said preferential option/non-preferential option.

2. A method for charging a fee for the use of network resources as claimed in claim 1, wherein said preferential option/non-preferential option are determined on the basis of a time zone as well as on the amount of network resources, and said premium rate/discount rate are determined based on the time zone as well as on the amount of network resources of said preferential option/non-preferential option.

3. A method for allotting the network resources supplied by a network resource provider system to an information provider terminal using said network resources, said method comprising the steps:

(a) said information provider terminal purchases a basic network

FOKI00033/US

resources from said network resource provider system;

(b) said information provider terminal purchases an optional condition with regard to said basic network resources; and

(c) said network resource provider system allots said network resources to each information provider terminal according to said basic network resources and said optional condition as well.

4. A method for allotting the network resources as claimed in claim 3, wherein said optional condition includes a preferential option enabling one information provider terminal to temporarily use a part of the basic network resources or its entirety thereof allotted to the other information provider terminal and a non-preferential option enabling the other information provider terminal to temporarily use a part of the basic network resources or its entirety thereof allotted to said one information provider terminal.

5. A method for allotting the network resources as claimed in claim 4, wherein said preferential option and said non-preferential option may be determined on the basis of a time zone and on the amount of network resources.

6. A method for allotting the network resources as claimed in claim 4, wherein said step (c) further includes the steps:

(c1) said network resource provider system judges the state of the network resources at said one information provider terminal given said preferential option;

(c2) when the status of the network resource for said one information provider terminal given the preferential option exceeding a predetermined ratio, said network resource provider system allots a part of basic network resources or its entirety thereof purchased by other

09897431.070301

information provider terminals given the non-preferential option, to said one information provider terminal; and

(c3) when the status of said one information provider terminal purchasing the preferential option no longer uses said basic resources exceeding a predetermined ratio after having allotted the network resources in said step (C2), said network resource provider system releases the allotment of the network resources in said step (c2).

7. A system for allotting network resources including a network resource provider system providing the network resources and a plurality of information provider terminals providing the information, wherein said network resource provider system comprising:

means for giving a basic network resource to said information provider terminals and giving an optional condition to said basic network resource;

memory means for storing said basic network resources allotted to each of said information provider terminals and said optional condition as well; and

a network resource control means for controlling the allotment of said network resources to each of said information provider terminals with reference to said memory means.

8. A system for allotting network resources as claimed in claim 7, wherein said optional condition includes a preferential option enabling one information provider terminal to temporarily use a part of the basic network resources or its entirety thereof allotted to the other information provider terminal and a non-preferential option enabling the other information provider terminal to temporarily use a part of the basic network resources or its entirety thereof allotted to said one information provider terminal.

0989741-07001
FOE020-TE426860

9. A system for allotting network resources as claimed in claim 8, wherein said preferential option and said non-preferential option may be determined on the basis of a time zone and on the amount of network resources.

10. A system for allotting network resources as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

a monitoring means for monitoring the status of the network resources at said information provider terminal, wherein said network resource control means controls the allotment of said network resources to each of said information provider terminals based on the monitoring result.

11. A system for allotting network resources as claimed in claim 10, wherein when said network resource control means judges, that the status of the basic network resources for said one information provider terminal given the preferential option exceeds a predetermined ratio, said network resource control means allots a part of a basic network resources or its entirety thereof purchased by other information provider terminals given the non-preferential option, to said one information provider terminal; and

when the status of said one information provider terminal given the preferential option no longer uses said basic resources exceeding a predetermined ratio after having allotted the network resources to said information provider terminal, said network control means releases the allotment of the network resources to said one information provider terminal.

09897431.070301